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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently amended) A conjugate comprising the reaction product of the intermediate having the formula ~~P-O-CH_2-CH_2-SO_2-(CH=CH_2)n~~ P-O-(CH_2-CH_2-SO_2-CH=CH_2)$_n$, wherein n is an integer and is at least 1, and P represents a hydrophilic biopolymer and a biologically active material capable of being covalently and nucleophilically bonded to said intermediate.

8. (Original) A conjugate according to claim 7 wherein the biologically active substance is any such substance having at least one chemical group reactive toward DVS.

9. (Original) A conjugate according to claim 8 wherein the hydrophilic biopolymer is a hyaluronan moiety or a moiety of a mixture of a hyaluronan with at least one other hydrophilic polymer.

10. (Original) A conjugate according to claim 8 wherein the biologically active material is an antineoplastic, an antibiotic, a protein, an enzyme or a peptide.

11. (Original) A conjugate according to claim 10 wherein the antineoplastic is vinblastin or paclitaxel, the antibiotic is gentamicin, the protein is alpha-interferon or cytochrome C, the enzyme is thrombin and the peptide is avidin.

12. (Original) A conjugate according to claim 9 wherein the biologically active material is alpha-interferon.

13. (Currently amended) A conjugate according to claim 12 and having the formula ~~HA-O-CH$_2$-CH$_2$-SO$_2$-CH$_2$-CH$_2$-NH-INF~~ HA-O-CH$_2$-CH$_2$-SO$_2$-CH$_2$-CH$_2$-NH-INF, wherein HA represents a hyaluronan moiety or a moiety of a mixture of a hyaluronan with at least one other hydrophilic polymer, and INF represents an alpha-interferon moiety.

14-19. (Canceled)

20. (Original) A method of preparing the conjugate of claim 7 comprising reacting the intermediate with the biologically active material in aqueous solution at a pH of 9 or higher at a temperature of about 4.degree. C. in the presence of a carbonate buffer and shaken for about 24 hours and thereafter dialyzing the reaction mixture with saline solution to remove therefrom unreacted biologically active material.

21. (Original) A method according to claim 20 wherein the biologically active substance is any such substance having at least one chemical group reactive toward DVS.

22. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 20 wherein the intermediate has the formula ~~P-O-CH$_2$-CH$_2$-SO$_2$-(CH=CH$_2$)$_n$~~ P-O-(CH$_2$-CH$_2$-SO$_2$-CH=CH$_2$)$_n$, wherein n is an integer and is at least 1, and P represents a hydrophilic biopolymer and the hydrophilic biopolymer is a hyaluronan moiety or a moiety of a mixture of a hyaluronan with at least one other hydrophilic polymer.

23. (Original) A method according to claim 20 wherein the biologically active material is an antineoplastic, an antibiotic, a protein, an enzyme or a peptide.

24. (Original) A method according to claim 23 wherein the antineoplastic is vinblastin or paclitaxel, the antibiotic is gentamicin, the protein is alpha-interferon or Cytochrome C, the enzyme is thrombin and the peptide is avidin.

25. (Original) A method according to claim 20 wherein the biologically active material is alpha-interferon.

26. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of the conjugate according to claim 7 in a pharmacologically acceptable carrier or vehicle therefor.

27. (Original) A method of treating an animal afflicted with a neoplastic condition comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of the pharmaceutical composition according to claim 26 to said animal.

28-31. (Canceled)